

The Social Determinants of Behavioral and Population Health

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Grady
Memorial
Hospital

← Emergency

↑ Emergency



Those factors that impact upon health and well-being: the circumstances into which we are born, grow up, live, work, and age, including the health system.

These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources at global, national and local levels, which are themselves influenced by policy choices

The social determinants of health are prominently responsible for **health disparities and inequities.**

Health disparities: differences in health status among distinct segments of the population including differences that occur by gender, race or ethnicity, education or income, disability, or living in various geographic localities

Health inequities: disparities in health that are a result of systemic, avoidable, and unjust social and economic policies and practices that create barriers to opportunity



**SOCIAL
JUSTICE**

Defining Social Justice

The distribution of good (advantages) and bad (disadvantages) in society, and more specifically *how* these things should be distributed in society. It is concerned with the ways that resources are allocated to people by social institutions.

-David Miller-

Defining Social Justice

Assuring the protection of equal access to liberties, rights, and opportunities, as well as taking care of the least advantaged members of society.

-John Rawls-

How Does Social Justice Relate to Health?

- Social justice is considered the moral foundation of public health
- It is concerned with human well being
- It ensures that individuals in a society have equal opportunities to lead healthy, meaningful, productive lives

Social Determinants of Health



LIVE



LEARN



WORK



PLAY

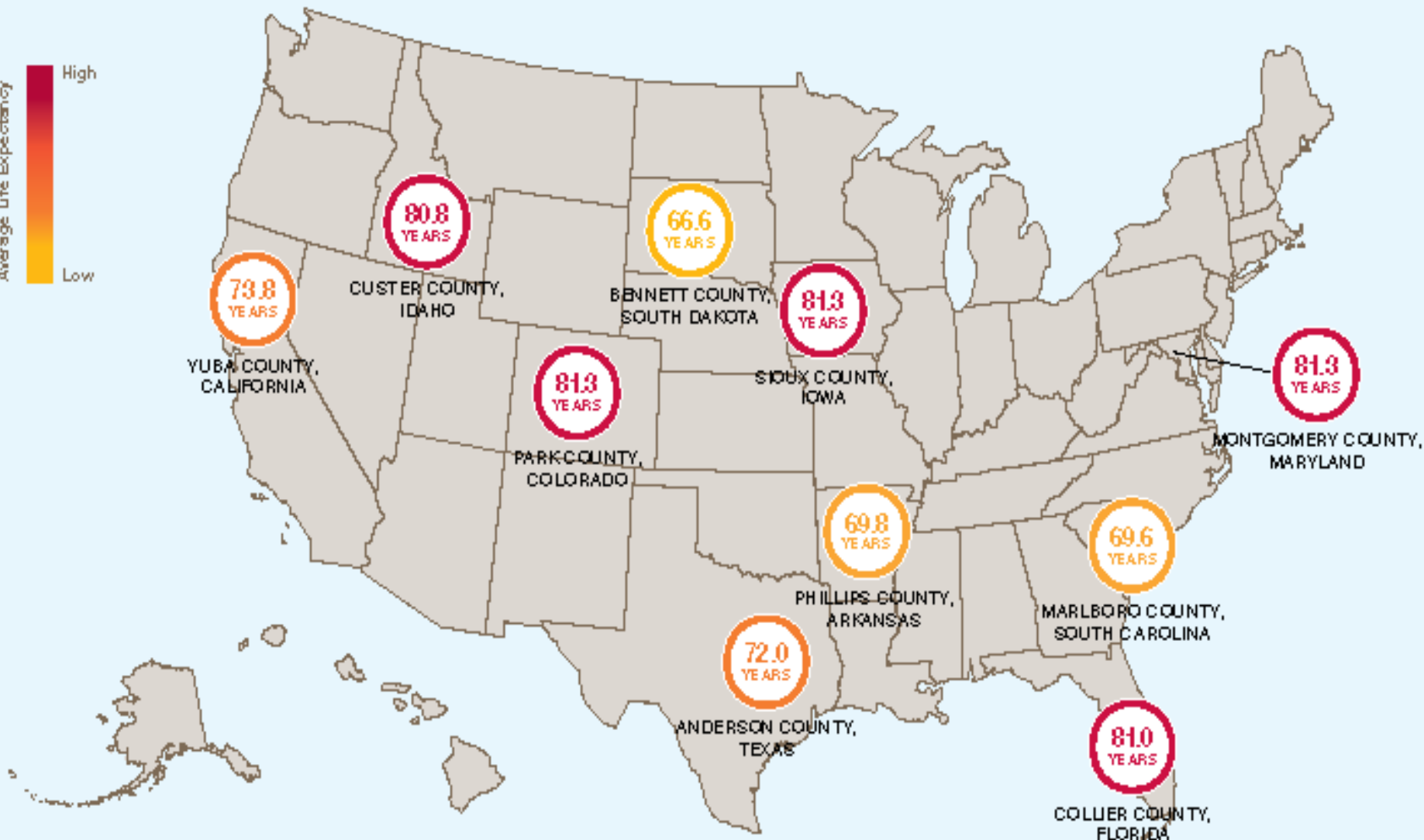
- Health begins where we live, learn, work, and play
- Your ZIP code may be more important to your overall health than your genetic code

Average Life Expectancy

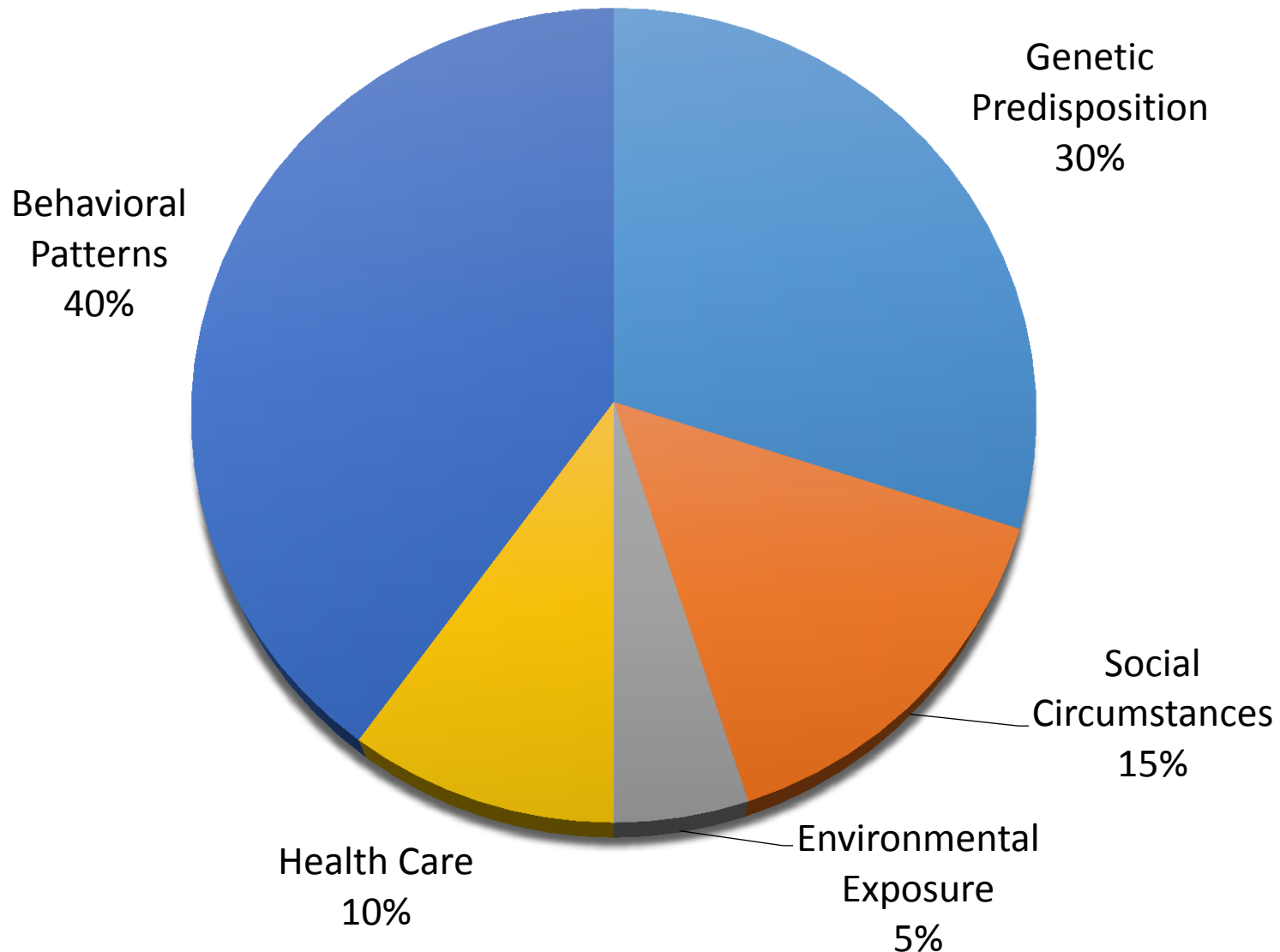


High

Low



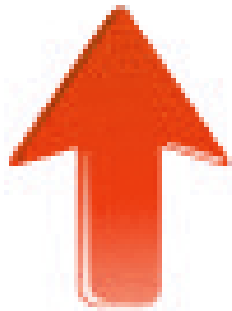
Determinants of Health and Their Contribution to Premature Death



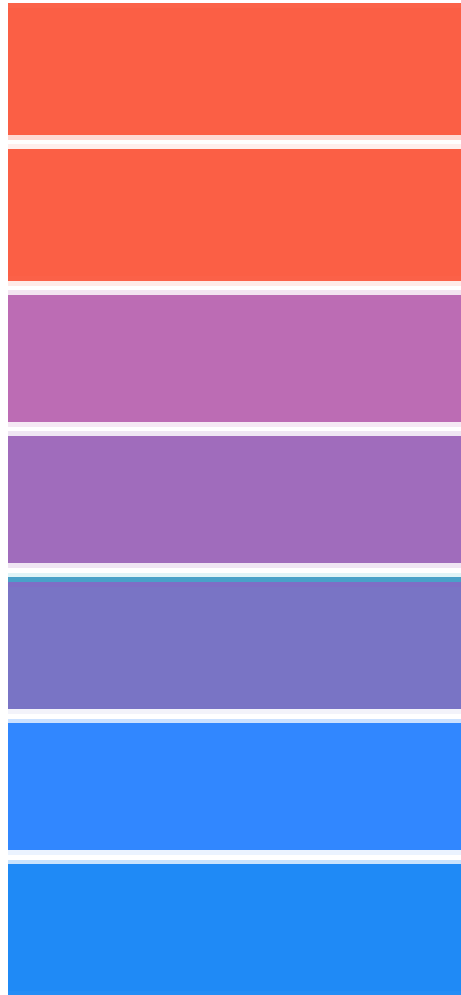
A Public Health Approach to Behavioral Health

- Population Health
- Epidemiologic Surveillance of the Health of the Population
- Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
- Risk/Protective Factors
- Access to and Evaluation of Services

Risk Factors



Level of Risk



Protective Factors

Risk Factor –

A characteristic that precedes a disorder and is statistically associated with that disorder



A close-up, low-angle shot of a red umbrella in the rain. The umbrella is the central focus, with its ribs and fabric clearly visible. The background is a dark, blurred sky with numerous white streaks representing falling rain. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the umbrella and the intensity of the rain.

Protective Factor –

A characteristic that predates a disorder or outcome and significantly reduces the risk of developing that disorder or outcome

The Causes of the Causes

“The Fundamental Causes of Disease”

If risk factors are the precursors of disease, then the environmental and contextual factors that precede or shape these risk factors are ***the causes of the causes***

The Causal Chain

“Why is Jason in the hospital?”

Because he has a bad infection in his leg.

But why does he have an infection?

He has a cut on his leg and it got infected.

But why does he have a cut on his leg?

He was playing in a junk yard next to his apartment building and fell on some sharp, jagged steel there.

But why was he playing in a junk yard?

His neighborhood is run down. Kids play there and there is no one to supervise them.

But why does he live in that neighborhood?

His parents can't afford a nicer place to live.

But why can't his parents afford a nicer place to live?

His dad is unemployed and his mom is sick.

But why is his dad unemployed?

Because he doesn't have much education and he can't find a job.

Not distinctly different from the social determinants of health

But deserve special emphasis, because:

- mental illnesses and substance use disorders are highly prevalent and highly disabling
- behavioral health conditions are high-cost illnesses
- they have been largely neglected

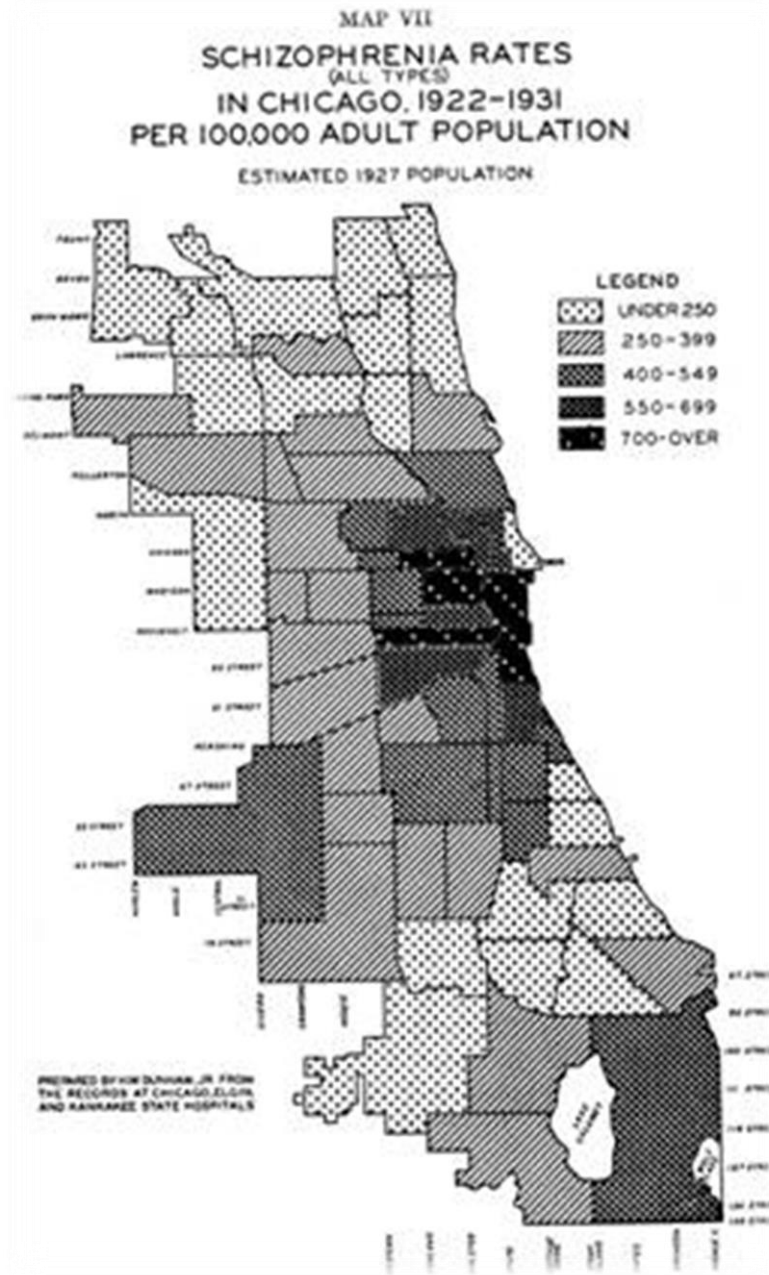
Suicide (1897)

Demonstrated the relationship between social exclusion and suicide

Described suicide as a social phenomenon



Faris and Dunham (1939).
Mental disorders in urban areas: an ecological study of schizophrenia and other psychoses



Suggested an inverse relationship between social organization and schizophrenia

Nature *and* Nurture

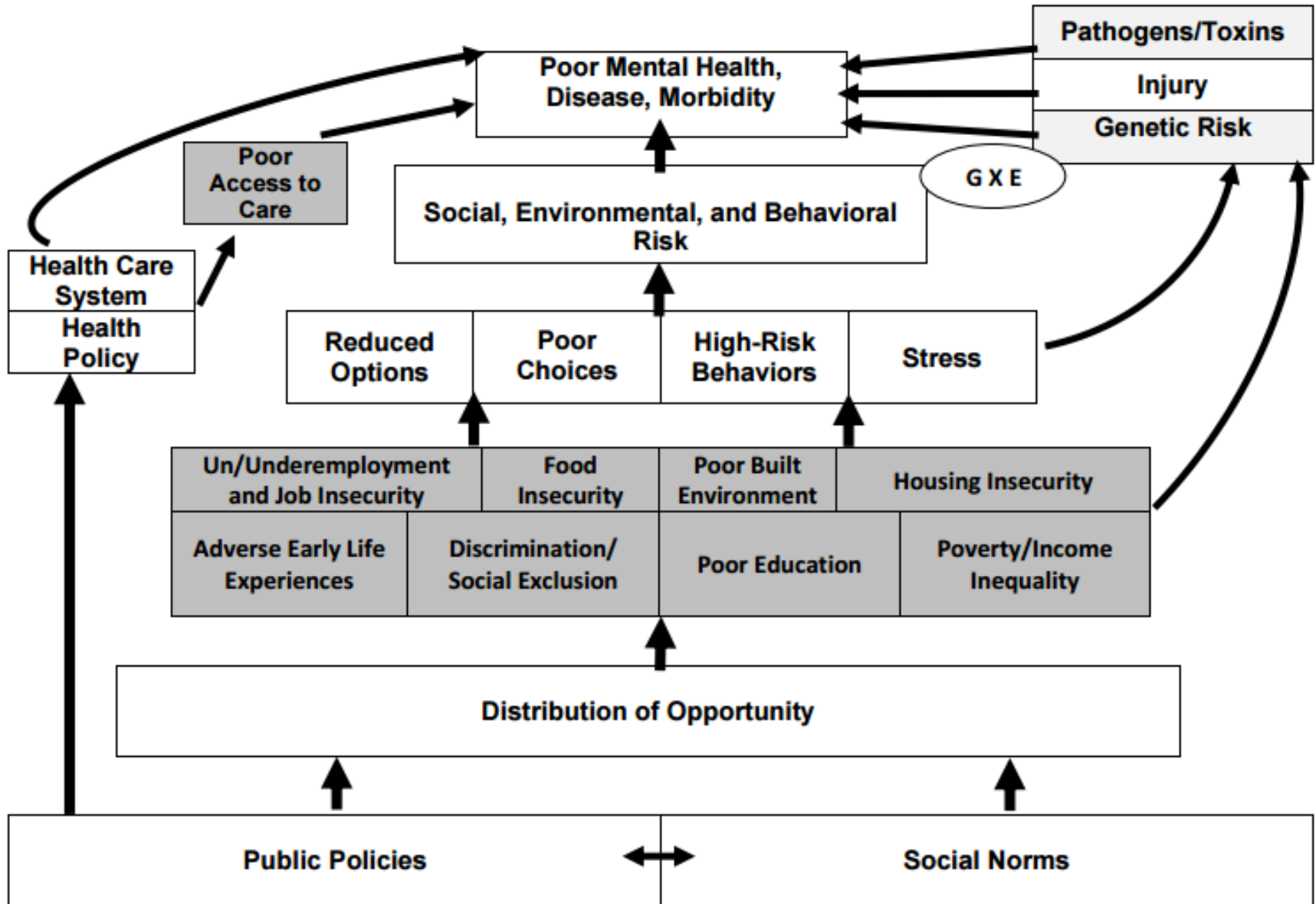
- Previously presented as two competing realms at odds
- The interplay between biology and the environment is key
- One cannot understand biology without understanding the socio-environmental context
- Mechanisms underpinning social factors cannot be understood without considering neurobiology



A photograph of a cemetery with numerous gravestones. The stones are mostly dark, rectangular, and have rounded tops. They are arranged in rows on a grassy slope. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The text is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

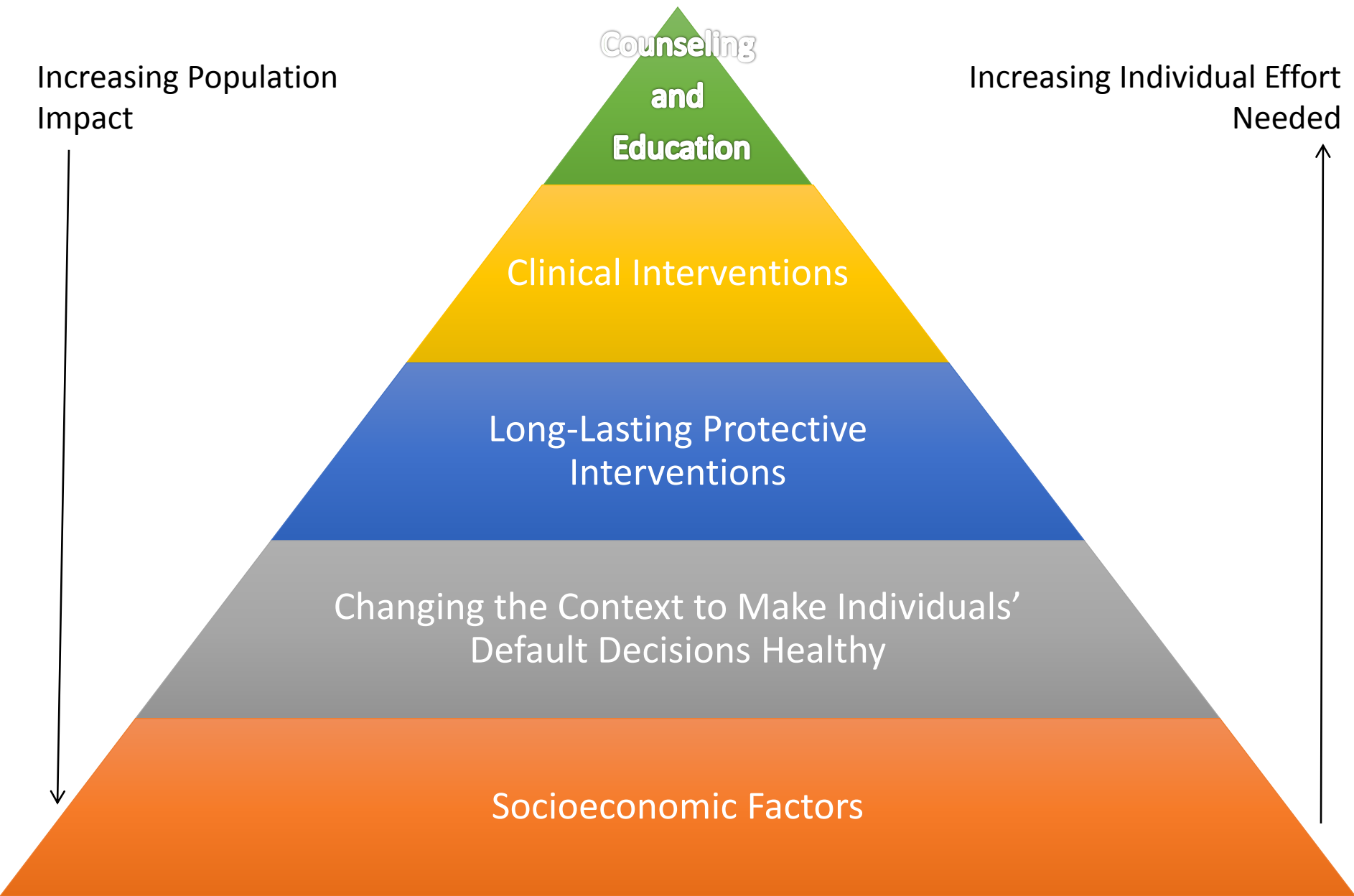
Individuals with serious mental illnesses die, on average, 25 years earlier than the general population

Conceptualizing the Social Determinants of Mental Health





“I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Being willing is not enough, we must do.”



Frieden, T.R. (2010). A Framework for Public Health Action: The Health Impact Pyramid. *American Journal of Public Health*, 100(4), 590.

All Policies are Health Policies

“Housing policy is health policy. Educational policy is health policy. Anti-violence policy is health policy. Neighborhood improvement policies are health policies. **Everything that we can do to improve the quality of life of individuals in our society has an impact on their health and is a health policy.**”

Success in Addressing the Social Determinants of Behavioral Health

- Nurse-Family Partnerships
- High/Scope Perry Preschool Program and Head Start
- Good Behavior Game
- Health Leads
- Medical-Legal Partnerships
- Mental Health Impact Assessments

Addressing Social Norms

- Set social norms of tolerance, acceptance, and inclusion in clinical settings
- Educate the community
 - About the importance of culture and cultural competence
 - About the negative impact of stigma
- Use laws to change norms
 - Create a culture of social inclusion
 - Speak up when this culture is not respected

Addressing Public Policies

- Taking action *beyond the walls* of treatment centers
- Advocate for policies and laws that improve education, increase employment opportunities (or extend employment benefits for the unemployed), decrease food insecurity, end discrimination, improve housing standards, etc.
- Offer expertise to your elected officials (individually, or through professional organizations)
- Cross-sector collaborations and relationships are key



World Health
Organization



Commission on
Social Determinants of Health

Closing the gap in a generation

Health equity through action on
the social determinants of health



“Reducing health inequities is... an ethical imperative. Social injustice is killing people on a grand scale.”

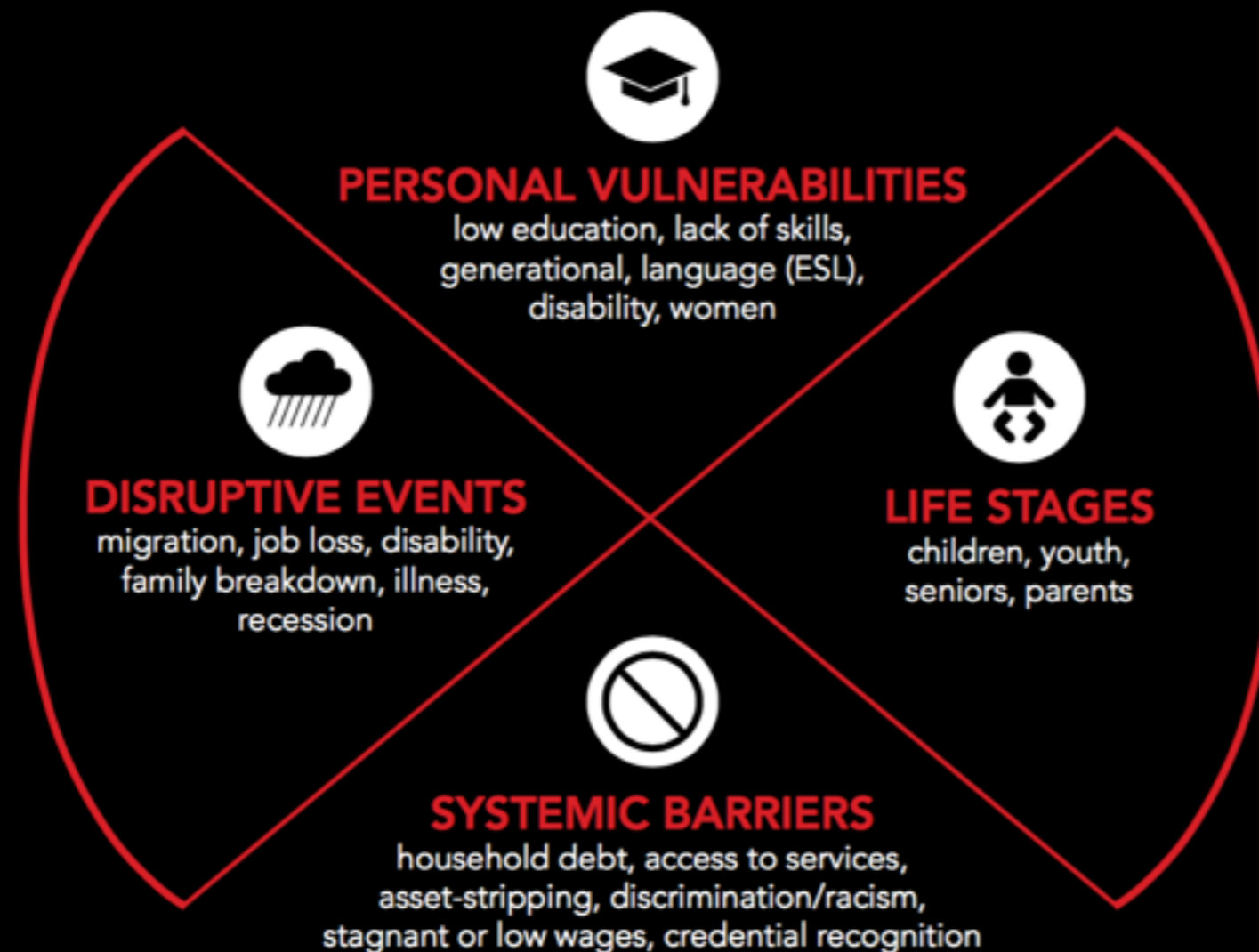
RACISM AND HOMELESSNESS

Jeff Olivet
April 2016

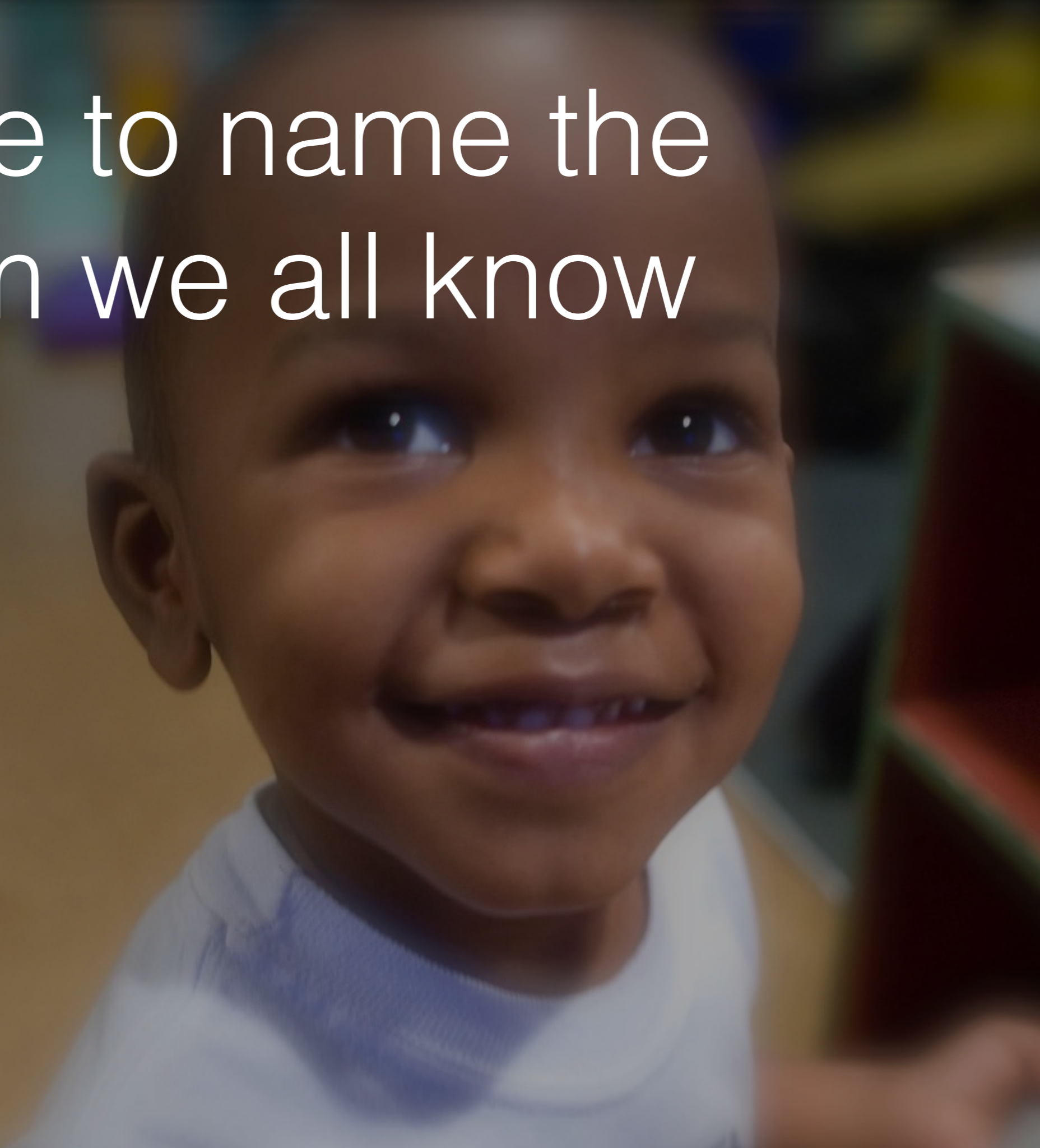
 Center for
Social Innovation

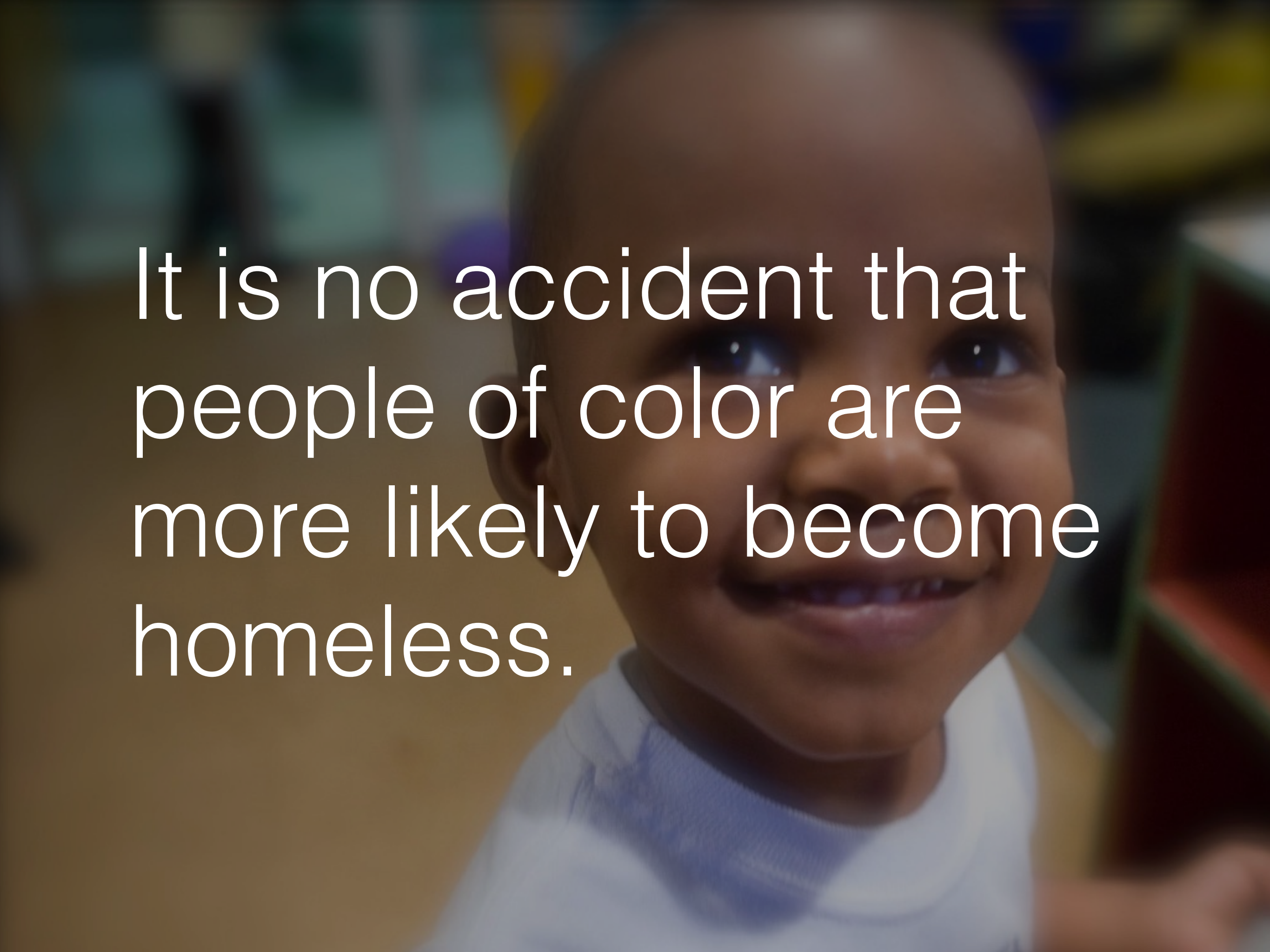
ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY

Sources of Vulnerability*



It is time to name the
problem we all know
exists.





It is no accident that people of color are more likely to become homeless.



it is the result of racism.



DISPROPORTE REPRESENTATION

ACCORDING TO HUD

50+% of the total homeless population are minorities. More than **40%** are African American.

African Americans are **3 times** more likely than Whites to become homeless.

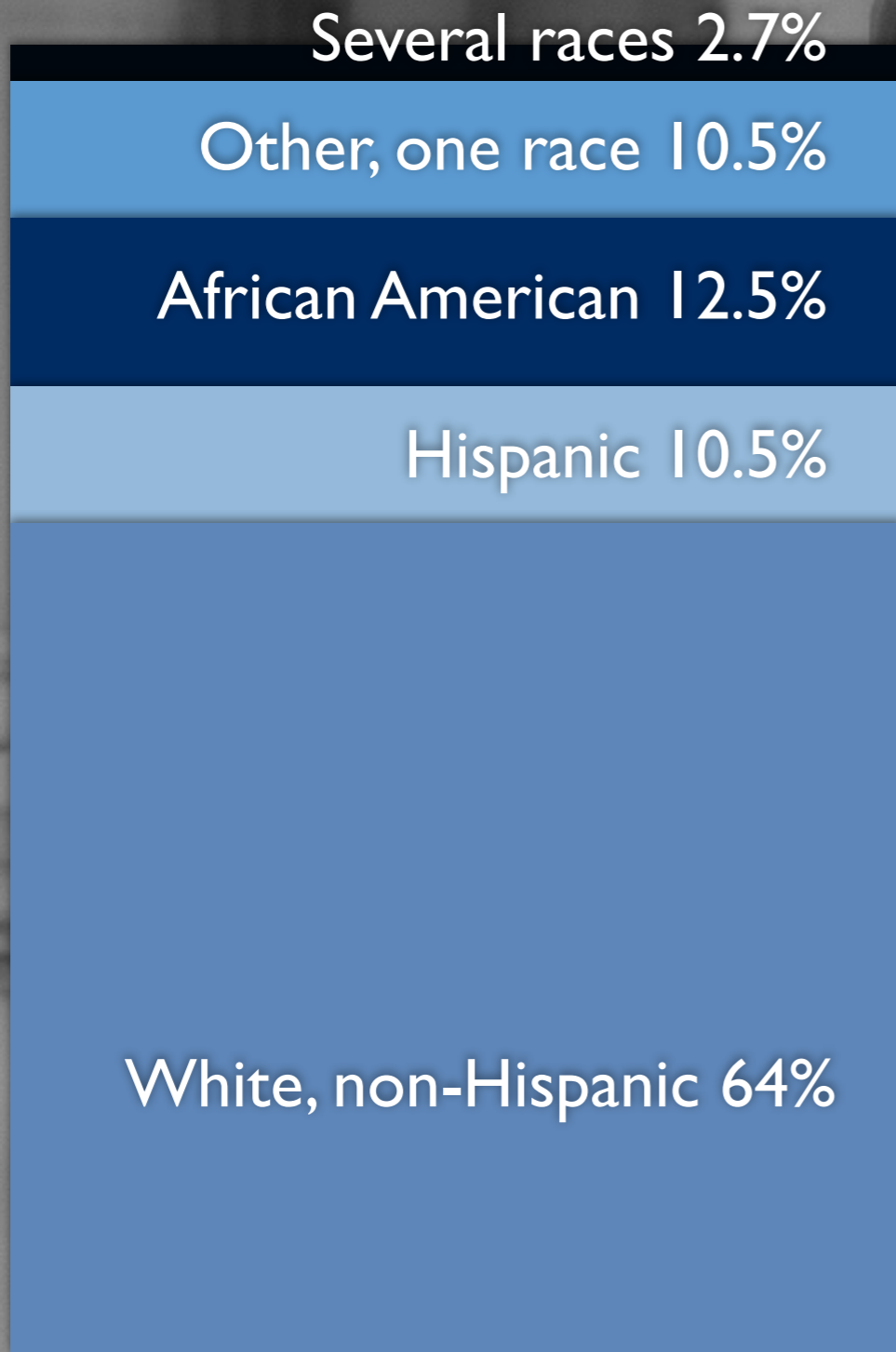


One study found that:

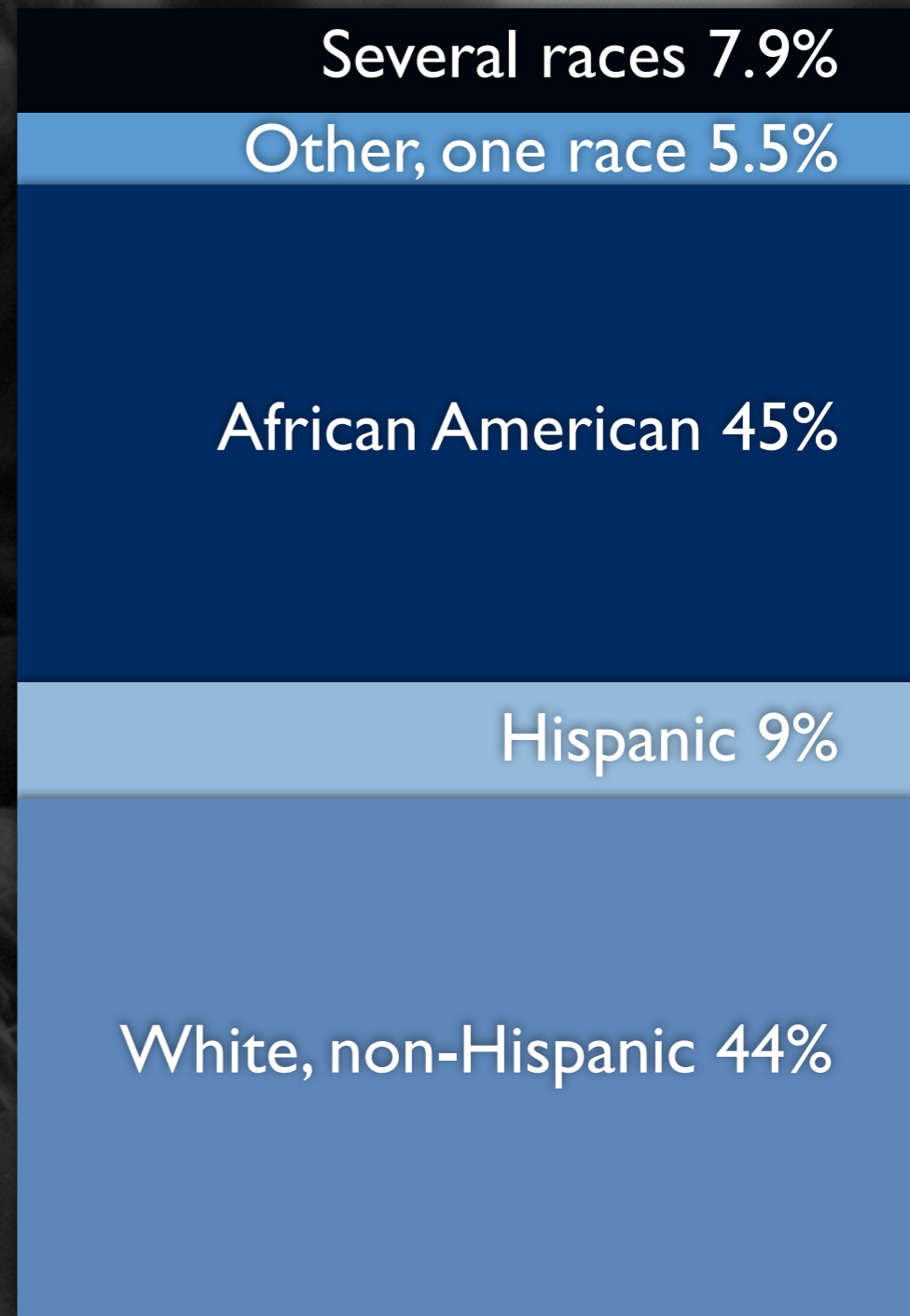
Blacks were **16x** more likely than whites to live in shelters.

AND

Black children under 5 were **29x** more likely than white children to end up in shelters.



Total US Population



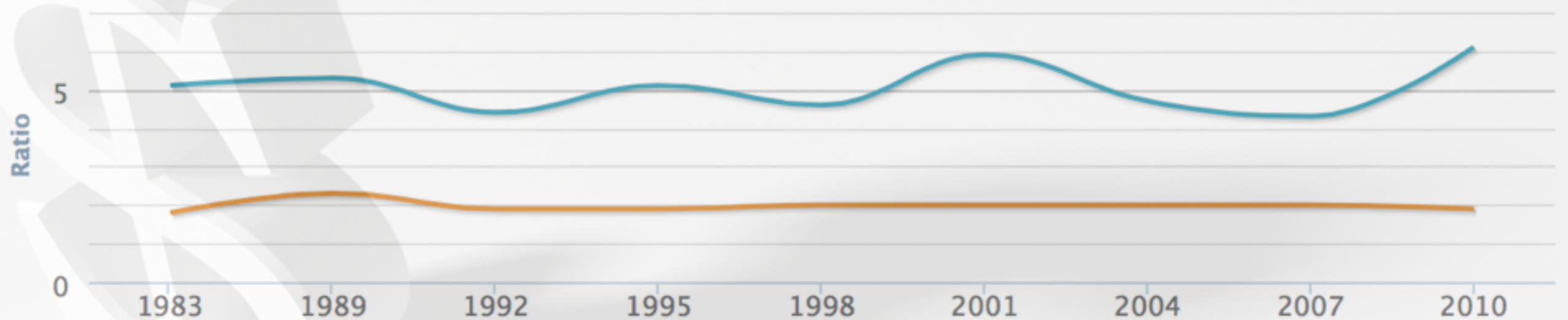
Shelter Population

Among African Americans...

National Population	Poverty Population	Homeless Family Population
13%	27%	59%

Racial Wealth/Income Gap

— Ratio of white wealth to black/Hispanic wealth — Ratio of white income to black/Hispanic income



HEALTH



Health disparities

For every white person affected by this condition

Stroke



White



African American



American Indian/
Alaskan Native

Cervical cancer



White



Hispanic



Vietnamese-American

Prostate cancer



White



African-American

Adult-onset diabetes



White



African-
American



Hispanic



American Indian/
Alaskan Native

Infant mortality



White



African
American



Puerto Rican



American Indian/
Alaskan Native

HIV/AIDS (new infections)



White



African American



Hispanic

Sources: http://www.fhcrc.org/about/pubs/center_news/2004/may20/sart3.html (cervical cancer); <http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/healthdisparities/> (HIV, diabetes, prostate cancer); http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/sites/default/files/57_fig02.jpg (low birth weight, 2008)


INCARCERATION





While people of color make up
30% of the US population,
they account for
60% of those imprisoned.

(Center for American Progress, 2012)



1 in 3 black men can expect to go to prison in their lifetimes.

(Center for American Progress, 2012)



The number of women incarcerated has increased by **800%** since 1980, and women of color are **3 times** more likely than white women to be incarcerated.

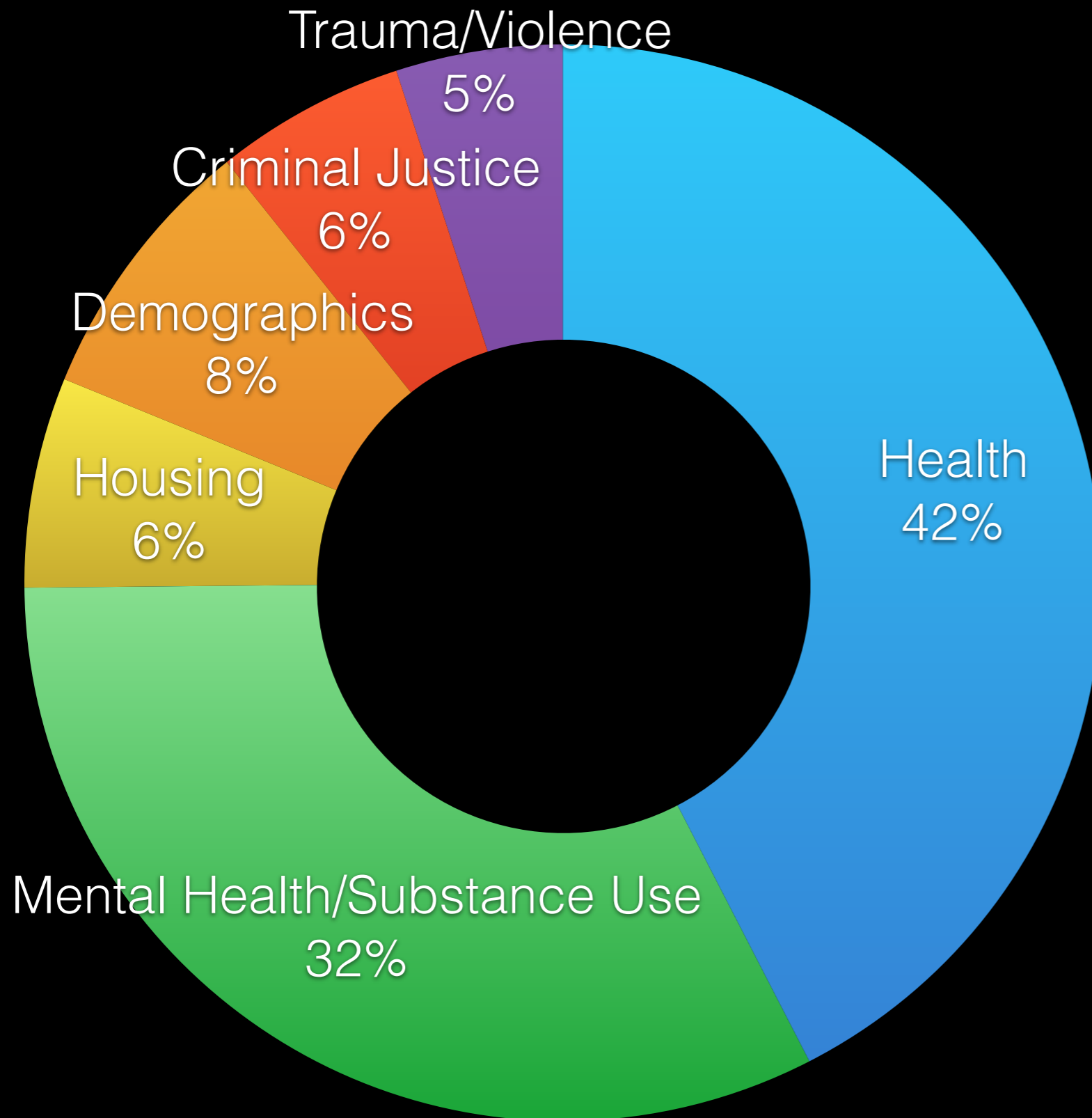
(Center for American Progress, 2012)



“The Latino Paradox”

(Gonzalez-Baker, 1996)

scoping review: 898 articles



Families?
Youth?
Other races?
Employment?

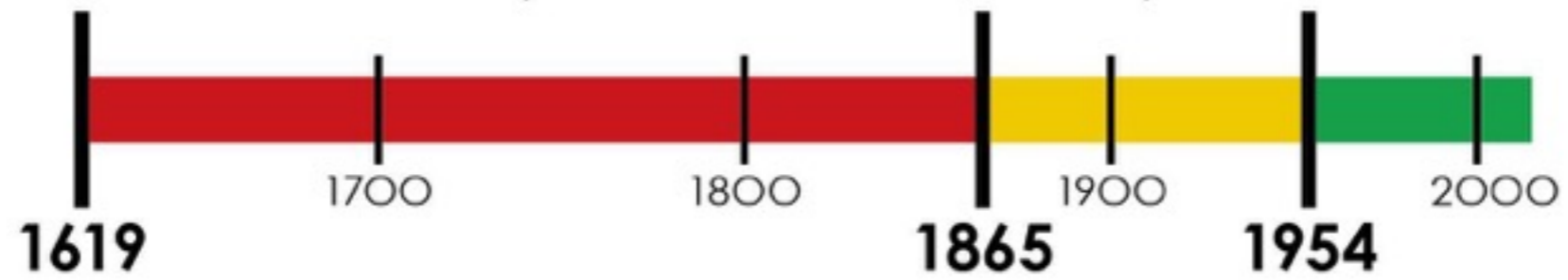


A Historical Perspective

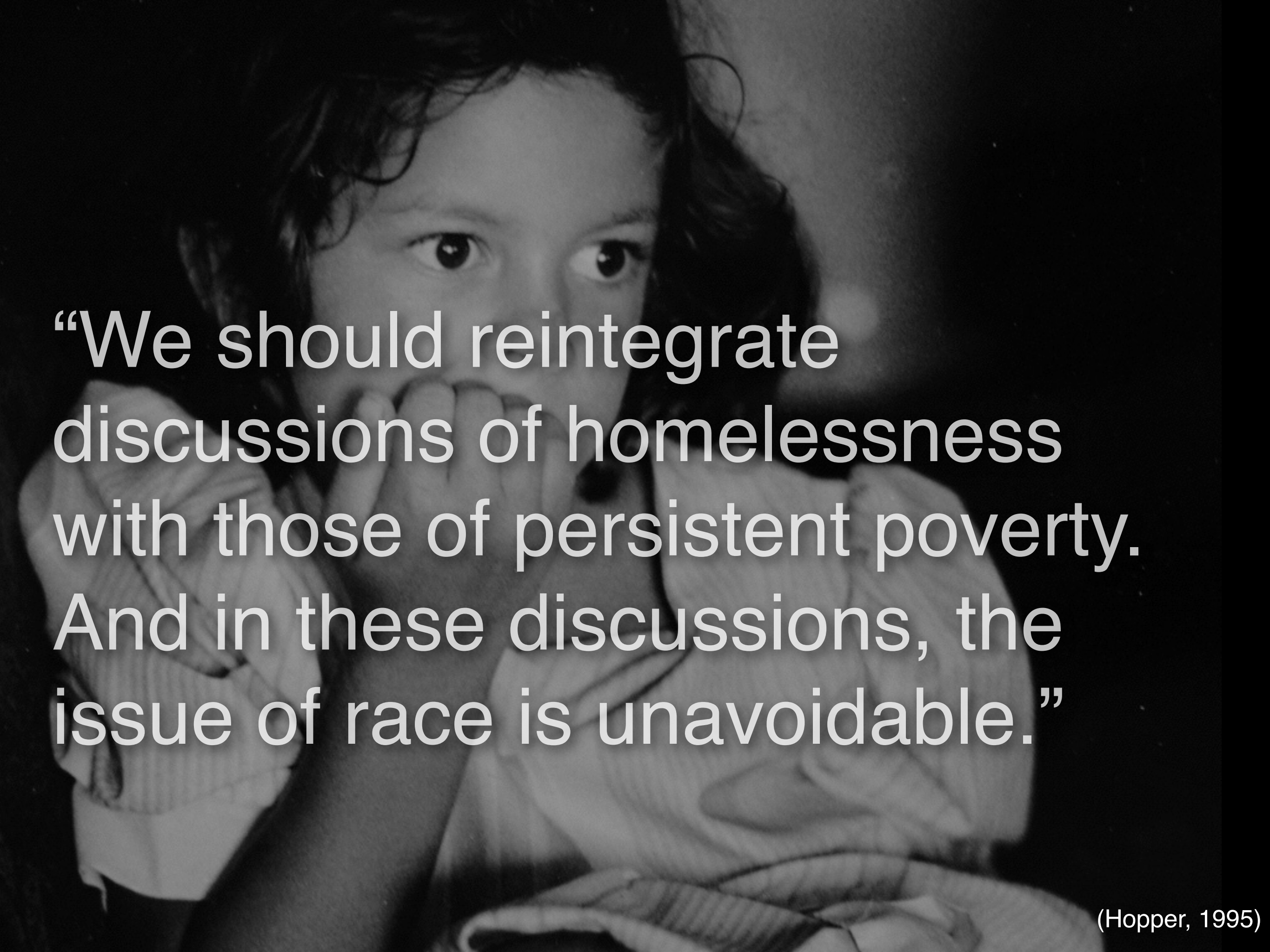
AMERICAN SLAVERY SEGREGATION

246 years

89 years



“Social and racial inequities are geographically inscribed.”

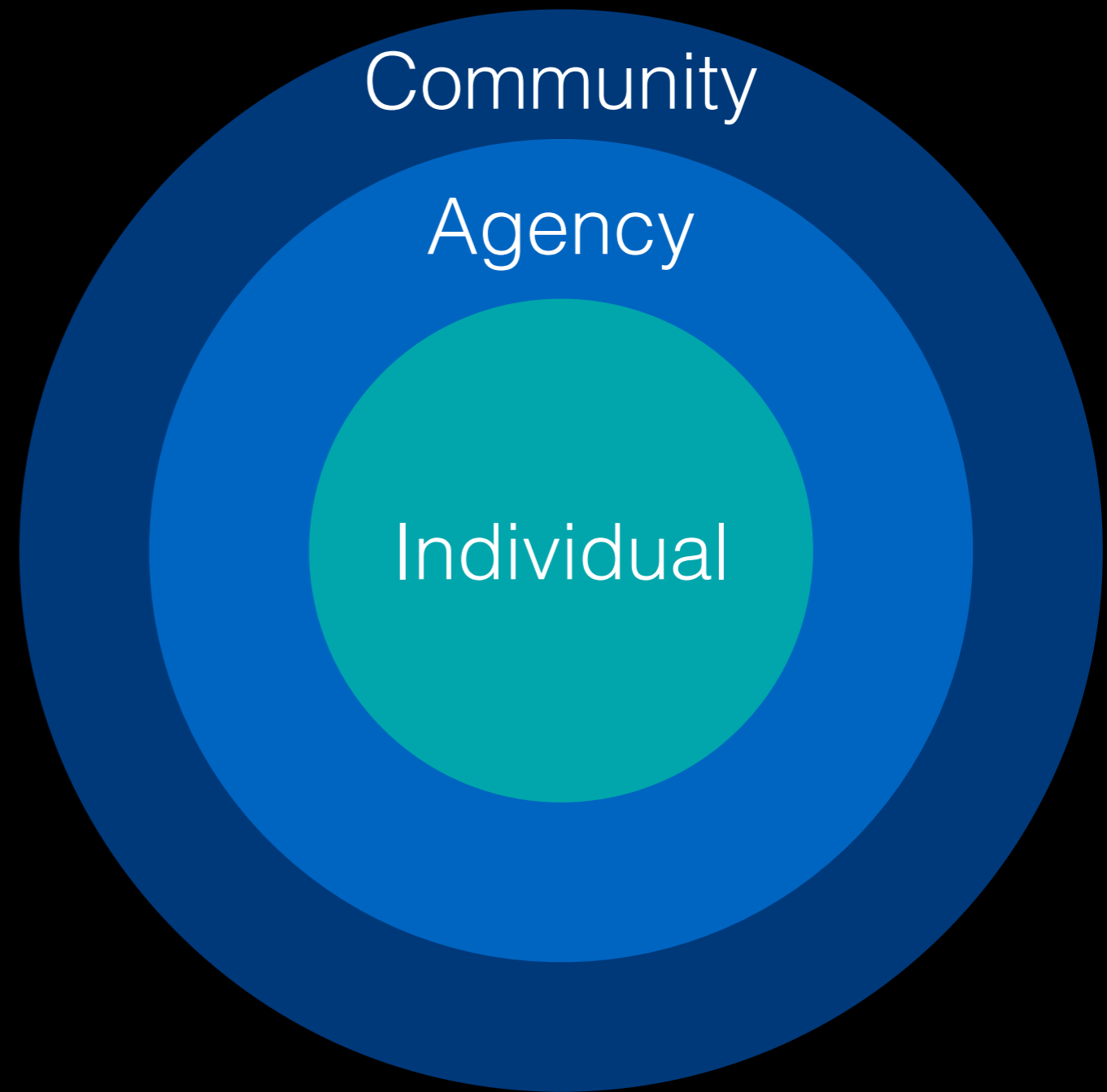


“We should reintegrate discussions of homelessness with those of persistent poverty. And in these discussions, the issue of race is unavoidable.”

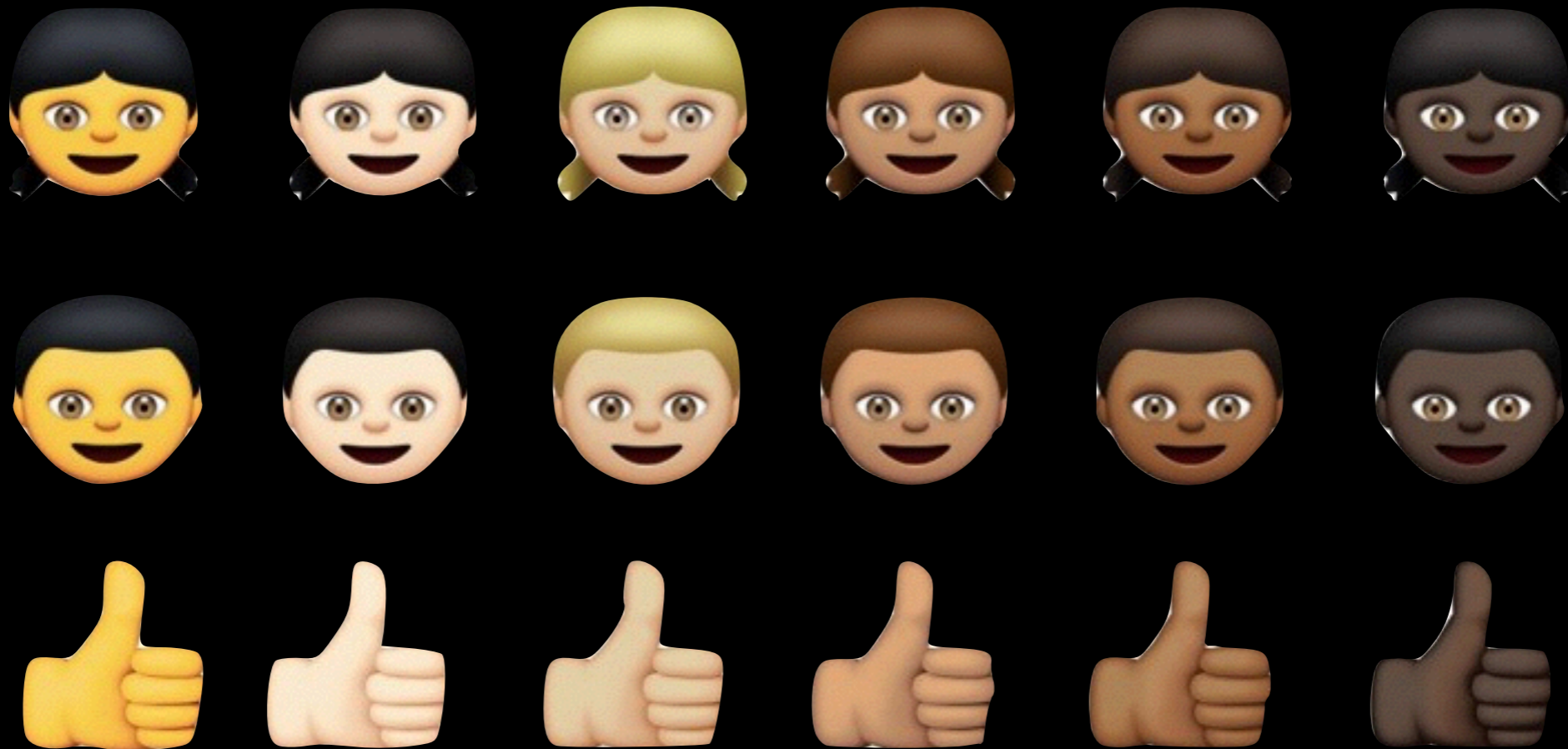
(Hopper, 1995)

what does this all mean?

What is our
obligation in
dismantling
racism?



How do these responsibilities differ between white people and people of color?



What Can You Do About It?

1. Work to understand the problem more deeply
2. Consider your own biases
3. Examine the data—let us know what you find
4. Begin a dialogue in your agency/community
5. Call each other on racism when you see it
6. Set up structures to combat racism and discrimination in your agency (e.g., diversity officers/committees, staff training)

What We Are Doing

1. Mobilize partnerships
2. Review the research literature
3. Examine national and local data
4. Find interventions to adapt, then test and scale what works
5. Continue to educate people and to bear witness

A Dream Deferred

by Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore--

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over--
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?





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